(c) if so, by when it would be made the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There was only one AC 3-tier coach running in 4308 Bareilly-Mughalsarai Express which < has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 21.07.2006 due to poor patronization.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to make this train an Express train between Lucknow and Mughalsarai.

(d) The train runs as passenger service for daily passengers between Lucknow-Mughalsarai.

Automatic ticketing machines at stations in Mumbai 918

. SHRIMATI SUPRIYASULE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 350 automatic ticketing machines installed and operationalised from 1 st January, 2008 on Mumbai city's Western and Central railway lines;

(b) whether Mumbai is in the first phase;

(c) whether German and Australian companies have agreed to supply these machines free of cost;

(d) if so, whether railways have agreed to install it in other cities like Delhi and Chennai after its successful operation;

(e) whether by installation, railways would be saving to the tune of Rs.1.5 lakh for the price of the each 350 machines in Mumbai; and

(f) if so, to what extent it has been working successfully in Mumbai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) So far, 243 Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines have been installed and operationalised on the suburban stations of Mumbai city's Western and Central Railways. Only 300 Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines are sanctioned for Mumbai area.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal from German and Australian companies to supply Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines free of cost. However, 450 Automatic Ticketing Vending Machines are planned for installation in other cities like Delhi and Chennai through Railway funding.

(e) The saving to the Railways does not arise in view of reply to (c) and (d) above as these,, machines have been procured through Railway Fund.

(f) All the Automatic Ticket Vending Machines functional at Mumbai are working satisfactorily. On an average 36,000 passengers avail this facility daily.

Corruption in awarding railway contracts

919. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANABHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: